WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced the initial roll-out of key preventive care provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Starting on August 1st, anyone who begins on a new insurance plan will receive services such as blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes screenings, immunizations, mammograms, and behavioral assessments for free.

"Increasing the accessibility of preventive services will improve everyone's health, and can have an even greater impact on women," said Slaughter. "Women are more likely than men to skip seeing the doctor because of cost. With today's changes, women and men can now access more care without the fear of financial ruin. No one's health should be at risk – particularly from an illness that can be avoided or detected early – because they cannot afford a check-up. Rather than holding yet another repeal vote, my Republican colleagues should join with us to build upon the successes of this historic act, for the benefit of the American people."

While the August 1st deadline applies to new plans, existing plans will have to begin offering the same preventive services at the beginning of their next plan year (usually the first of January). Many plans, including Medicare, are already offering these services for free as a result of health care reform.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, women can now receive the following services at no cost to them:

- Well-woman visits
- Breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling
- Contraceptive methods and counseling
- Screening and counseling for domestic partner violence
- Screening for gestational diabetes
- Counseling for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Screening for HIV
- DNA testing for high-risk strains of HPV

Slaughter has been a leading advocate for expanding access to quality affordable healthcare and making lifesaving preventive care measures available to more Americans. As Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, Slaughter brought the ACA to the House floor for consideration and final passage.

For more information and for a full list of the preventive services that are available under the Affordable Care Act, visit www.healthcare.gov.